WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A radial styrenic block copolymer having a general formula:

$(AB)_nX$

wherein:

(i) A is a styrenic block,

(ii) B is a dienic block,

(iii) X is a residue of a diester coupling agent,

(iv) n is the number styrenic block copolymer arms bonded to the residue of a diester coupling agent,

(v) the molecular weight of the styrenic block copolymer arm (AB) is from about 2000 daltons to about 300,000 daltons, and

(vi) the weight percentage of the polymer wherein n is at least 5 is less than about 8 percent.

2. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the weight percentage of the polymer wherein n is at least 5 is less than about 6 percent.

3. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 2 wherein the weight percentage of the polymer wherein n is at least 5 is less than about 5 percent.

4. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the weight percentage of the polymer wherein n=2 is less than about 5 percent.

5. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 4 wherein the weight percentage of the polymer wherein n=2 and n is at least 5 is less than about 12 percent.

6. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the styrenic block (A) is polystyrene.

7. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the dienic block (B) is selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, polyisoprene and mixtures thereof.

8. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the molecular weight of the styrenic block copolymer arm (AB) is from about 3,000 daltons to about 150,000 daltons.

9. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 8 wherein the molecular weight of the styrenic block copolymer arm (AB) is from about 30,000 daltons to about 100,000 daltons.

10. The radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 wherein the residue of a diester coupling agent is a residue of a diester selected from the group consisting of dimethyl adipate, diethyl adipate, dimethyl terephthalate, diethyl terephthalate, and mixtures thereof.

11. A method for preparing a radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 comprising:
(a) contacting styrenic and dienic monomers with an anionic polymerization initiator which is an organo-substituted alkali metal compound in a suitable solvent to form a living polymer cement;
(b) adding from about 0.01 to about 1.5 equivalents of a metal alkyl compound per equivalent of living polymer chain ends to the cement, during or after polymerization, wherein the alkyl groups of the metal alkyl compound are chosen so that they will not exchange with the living polymer chain ends and the metal alkyl compound is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, zinc and magnesium alkyls having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms per alkyl substituent; and
(c) adding a diester coupling agent to the cement under reaction conditions sufficient to couple the living polymer.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein 0.9:1 to 1.1:1 equivalents of a metal alkyl compound per equivalent of living polymer chain ends is added to the cement.

13. The method of Claim 11 wherein the metal alkyl compound is a trialkyl aluminum compound.

14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the trialkyl aluminum compound is triethyl aluminum.

15. The method of Claim 11 wherein the molar ratio of diester to living polymer chains is from about 0.2:1 to about 0.3:1.

16. The method of Claim 11 wherein the molar ratio of diester to living polymer chains is about 0.25:1.

17. The method of Claim 11 wherein the metal alkyl compound is added in step (b) at or after 70 weight percent conversion of the monomers.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein the metal alkyl compound is added in step (b) at or after 90 weight percent conversion of the monomers.

19. A modified bitumen comprising an admixture of a radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 and bitumen.

20. A hydrogenated radial styrenic block copolymer prepared by hydrogenating a radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1.

21. The hydrogenated radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 20, wherein the radial styrenic block copolymer of Claim 1 is hydrogenated using a selective hydrogenation process.